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Fairy Garden Village Developed at Boerner Botanical Gardens *Makers of Fairy Gardens Invited to Display Their Works*

Hales Corners, WI (July 9, 2015) — A miniature village for fairy folk has sprung up in the Herb Garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens. To add to the fantasy created by the Parks horticulturist, makers of fairy gardens are invited to display their own work Sunday, Aug. 2, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Botanical Gardens, “Milwaukee’s Living Museum,” is located at 9400 Boerner Drive in Whitnall Park.

Nestled in the Herb Garden, three fairy home sites surround Gnome Hill and are connected with tiny paths and a lazy river. A white clapboard farmhouse has an even tinier herb garden for its wee residents. Rustic homes in the village are made of stone and birch, and one of them has a micro vegetable garden. Miniature conifers, herbs, and perennials make up the landscape in this Lilliputian world. Fairy Garden Village will be on display through the end of the garden season.

“A big thank you to the Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America for their support of this project.” said Shirley Walczak, Director of Boerner Botanical Gardens, “and to Horticulturist Peggy Zautke for bringing this imaginary world to life! She’s even considered the need for the fairies to visit with neighbors and has provided them with connecting paths and a gathering spot along the ‘river.’ This display really draws you in.”

Walczak said, “We also thought it would be fun for all the fairy-garden enthusiasts in the area to show their creations to the public and have a chance to win prizes.”

Makers of fairy gardens who will be displaying their work should drop it off Aug. 2 from 9-9:45 a.m. Gardens Staff will accept entries at the Annual Garden, just beyond the Garden House. Size of a fairy garden is limited to what its maker can carry. Makers are encouraged to call (414) 525-5601 by Friday, July 31 so that table display space will be available. Makers displaying their work will receive one free admission band for the day.

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Voting for “People’s Choice” winners will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All visitors to the Botanicals Gardens will be allowed to vote for their favorite garden in each category: Children age 12 and under; Youth age 13-17, and Adults age 18 and up.

At 2:15 p.m., winners will be announced. Prizes will range from miniature plants and fairy items to Botanical Gardens admission passes. Winners need not be present during the awards presentation. After the award of prizes, makers may pick up their gardens from about 2:30-3:30 p.m.

For the younger set of fairy-garden enthusiasts, the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens will be presenting Enchanted Evening at the Gardens, Sunday, July 19 from 6-8 p.m. Children are encouraged to dress as garden fairies and gnomes. Program participants will catch and release fireflies and enjoy craft activities led by Betty Brinn Children’s Museum and Young Gardeners of Wisconsin. Refreshments and treats from Rich’s House of Cakes will be available. Admission for children is \$6. Accompanying adults, children age two and under, and members of Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens are admitted free. For more information, visit <http://boernerbotanicalgardens.org/event/enchanted-evening-at-the-gardens/>

Admission to the Botanical Gardens is \$5.50 for adults age 18 and up; \$4.50 for students of any age with IDs, Milwaukee County seniors age 60 and up with IDs, and people with disabilities; and \$3.50 for youths age 6-17. Admission to the gardens requires wearing the official daily wristband.

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